

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03418 170842Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 170822Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7518

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 3418

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY, CB

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN EDITORIAL ON LON NOL OFFER

FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED
JULY 15 IN GOVERNMENT INFLUENCED BERITA HARIAN, THE MALAY LANGUAGE
SISTER OF KL STRAITS TIMES.

BEGIN TEXT. PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK HAS TO SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT MANY MORE YOUNG CAMBODIAN MEN AND WOMEN WILL DIE BECAUSE OF HIS REFUSAL TO STOP THE WAR IN HIS COUNTRY.

THE CAMBODIAN GOVT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT LON NOL AND PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET HAS MADE AN OFFER TO NEGOTIATE "WITH ANYONE" REPRESENTING THE PRO-SIHANOUK GUERRILLAS WITHOUT ATTACHING ANY CONDITIONS.

A SIMILAR OFFER WAS MADE LAST YEAR WITH SEVERAL CONDITIONS ATTACHED INCLUDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN SOLDIERS FROM CAMBODIA. IT WAS REJECTED BY THE GUERRILLAS WHO FEAR LOSS OF SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE COUNTRY.

PRINCE SIHANOUK SHOULD ACCEPT THIS NEW OFFER TO SAVE HIS COUNTRY FROM TOTAL DESTRUCTION AND TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA TO LIVE IN PEACE ONCE AGAIN. BUT HE LOST HIS CHANCE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 KUALA 03418 170842Z

ENDING THE CLASHES AND REVIVING PEACE BY REJECTING THE OFFER,

CALLING IT ONE OF AMERICA'S "TRICKS".

PRESIDENT LON NOL'S OFFER WITHOUT CONDITIONS SHOWS THAT HE HAS GONE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, PRINCE SIHANOUK IS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE OF YOUNG CAMBODIANS TO FULFILL HIS OWN PERSONAL OBJECTIVES. HE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN A GOOD REASON FOR HIS REJECTION OF THE OFFER, INSTEAD OF ACCUSING THE U.S.

AMERICAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN MIXED UP IN CAMBODIA AS SHE WAS IN VIETNAM AND LAOS BUT EVER SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN FORCES FROM VIETNAM, THE SITUATION IN INDO-CHINA HAS IMPROVED. EVEN IF SHE IS INVOLVED IN URGING THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT (RKG) TO FIND A WAY TO END THE WAR QUICKLY AND PEACEFULLY, IS THIS NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF CAMBODIA? END TEXT.

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